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Familles), the omission hardly seems to be justified. There is a slip of the pen on p. 68 where Brittany is referred to as a duchy although its ruler is correctly styled count. There are typographical errors in lines 4 and 17 on page v. The map would be better if the royal domain were distinguished from vassal territory; and it is impossible to study the geography of the Albigensian crusade. Beziers, Albi and Nismes are not indicated.

JAMES WESTFALL THOMPSON.

*Oliver Cromwell and the Rule of the Puritans in England.* By CHARLES FIRTH, M.A., Balliol College, Oxford. [Heroes of the Nations.] (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1900. Pp. xiii, 496.)

So many successful and even brilliant lives of Cromwell have been written of late years that Carlyle, could he revisit us, would cheerfully withdraw his tirade against Dryasdust, whose labors in this field only served to obscure his hero with "circumambient inanity and insanity." Among the best of these successful lives is the present volume by Mr. Firth. It is not only attractively written, but it is the product of rare scholarship and full knowledge. It is based in part on the author's extended article contributed in 1888 to the *Dictionary of National Biography*. Approximately the first half of the book follows that article closely, a testimonial to the solidity of the earlier work, but the author has expanded it and provided his subject with a proper background by weaving into his narrative a concise history of the period. This is a very great improvement, since Cromwell is one of those characters whose life is an epitome of the history of his time and cannot be understood apart from it. In the latter part of the book, the author breaks away from his article and treats his subject still more broadly. Mr. Firth has given proof in his published writings of a knowledge of various parts of this period which is little less than microscopic. It is a pleasure to observe that such knowledge is not incompatible with breadth of view. His generalizations are so concise, so accurate and so luminous that the book offers, as its title indicates, an adequate brief history of the period. Indeed, those who insist upon the very latest results of historical investigation will prefer it to any other. The chapters on Ireland and Cromwell's Parliaments are the best short accounts that we have of these subjects. The subsequent appearance of Mr. Gardiner's new volume gives us an opportunity to test parts of them by a very severe standard. They stand the test admirably. There is a chapter on Presbyterian and Independent and another on Cromwell's Colonial Policy which will be welcomed by teachers of American history for the use of their students. There are numerous illustrations and maps, two of which, the battle plans of Marston Moor and Dunbar, differ materially from those hitherto accepted. They are the results of investigations which Mr. Firth has described elsewhere.

The book has, however, one defect from the standpoint of the historical student. It is one of a popular series of biographies, and the plan of the series forbids the use of footnotes and references. Abundant references are given in Mr. Firth's article in the *Dictionary of National Biography* and the two may be used to supplement each other, though at the cost of some convenience. The publishers would have done better to have allowed Mr. Firth more latitude, for this is not an ordinary popular volume. It is a model of what a brief biography should be, and it fills a gap in serious historical literature. The biographies by Mr. Frederic Harrison and Mr. Morley are brilliant and suggestive, but not authoritative, while the elaborately illustrated one by Mr. Gardiner is far too expensive for general use. Mr. Gardiner suggests that we shall have the standard life of Cromwell when Mr. Firth undertakes to write one of two or three times the length of the present volume, unhampered by the restrictions of a popular series. It is to be hoped that a word from such an eminent source will not pass unheeded. In the meantime, the present volume will be generally accepted as the standard one of moderate cost and compass.

GUERNSEY JONES.

*History of the Commonwealth and Protectorate, 1649–1660.* By SAMUEL RAWSON GARDINER, M.A. Vol. III., 1654–1656. (London, New York and Bombay : Longmans, Green and Co. 1901. Pp. xix, 513.)

THE latest volume of this monumental work covers the years 1654–1656. Mr. Gardiner considers this the most important period for the proper understanding of the Protectorate. "The story of these two years," he says, "reveals to us the real character of the Protectorate, as no other part of its history can do. Up to the meeting of Parliament in 1654, all was expectation and conjecture. After the meeting of Parliament in 1656, affairs, no doubt, developed themselves in various directions, but the lines of their development were already laid down in the course of the period under survey in the present volume." A glance at the contents will show this to be true, for the narrative reaches the most important point of the four very important topics, Cromwell's relations with his Parliaments, his domestic policy, his treatment of Ireland and his relations with foreign states.

Mr. Gardiner has said in another connection that the Parliament of 1654 is the important one for the correct understanding of Cromwell's parliamentary difficulties. If his attitude in this case is grasped clearly our perplexity in the case of the succeeding Parliaments will disappear. We have all been disturbed by the incongruity of regarding Cromwell as a champion of liberty, which we are prone to identify with parliamentary rule, when he disposed of Parliaments in a more summary manner than Charles I. ever dared to do, and was confronted with the same arguments that were used against Wentworth, applied with little